



SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

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WHERE IS THE SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

The Santa Ana Region, which extends from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains in the north and east to Newport Bay along the coast, continues to be one of the most rapidly growing areas of the state. While the region is geographically the smallest, 2,800 square miles, it boasts one of the largest populations with almost five million people. This semi-arid Region is known for its temperate climate and relatively low rainfall – about 15 inches per year. The Regional Board's office is located in Riverside.

KEY ISSUES IN REGION 8

Extensive groundwater basins underlie much of the Region. Local efforts to recharge and inject reclaimed water back into the aquifer provide only a fraction of the area's water needs, which are primarily met by imported water. The Santa Ana River, the Region's main surface water body, transports more than 125 million gallons per day of reclaimed water from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties for recharge into the Orange County Groundwater Basin. This satisfies approximately 40 percent of the county's water demand. The Region also includes much of coastal Orange County, where water quality impairment in Newport Bay and bacterial contamination in Huntington Beach are key issues.

Regional Board staff has developed a watershed management plan for Newport Bay. They have also developed Total Maximum Daily Loads to address beneficial use impacts caused by sediments, nutrients and pathogens in the Newport Bay Watershed.

The Regional Board continues to address discharges from dairy and other confined animal feeding operations in the Chino Basin. These discharges degrade underlying groundwater quality and downstream surface water quality.

Deterioration of groundwater quality due to increasing salt levels is a significant issue in the Region. The Regional Board has helped develop a desalination project for the lower Chino Groundwater Basin to intercept and desalt poor quality groundwater and thus protect downstream water supplies. The staff has also brought together major stakeholders in the watershed to review the total dissolved solids and nitrogen water quality objectives of the Santa Ana Basin, and develop a strategy to protect water quality and optimize water resources development.

WATER DATA

- 2,800 square miles of land
- 460 miles of streams
- 21,090 acres of lakes
- 24 miles of coastline

